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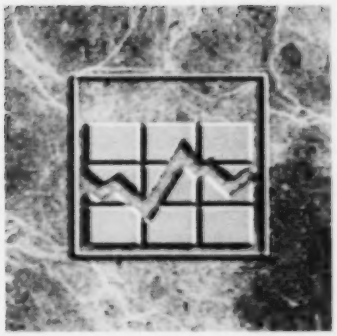
Objectives and Content of the Preliminary Interview



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OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT OF THE PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW

October 1992

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Preliminary Interview will be conducted on the first panel of SLID, in January 1993, as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey. The first panel is made up of about 20,000 households that are rotating out of the Labour Force Survey in January and February, 1993.

The purpose of this document is to provide a description of the purpose of the SLID Preliminary Interview and the question wordings to be used.

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1. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the SLID Preliminary Interview are to collect information on:

- the person's current work activities, to feed back one year later during the first Labour Interview as an aid to recall, and,
- personal and work history.

Early plans for SLID were to start the data collection process with a labour interview in January 1994. This first interview would have established the baseline demographic information for the household in addition to recording information on each respondent's labour market activities during 1993. There were three shortcomings with this approach:

- The labour and income data for 1993 could not be analyzed in the context of household composition changes occurring during 1993, because household composition was being determined as of January 1994. In contrast, the data for the 1994 and later reference years could be analyzed in the context of changes in household composition occurring during the reference year.

- The data collection strategy involves the use of dependent interviewing (feeding back information on the person's activities at the time of the last interview to reduce recall error). However, it was not possible to use this technique in the first year and data for that year would accordingly be of lower quality. As respondents will be interviewed for six years only, each year counts for a great deal.

- There are several items of background information we want to collect on respondents. These questions could be asked during the

first labour interview but this extra content would make for a more burdensome first interview, possibly diminishing respondent cooperation in later waves.

These three problems were overcome by the decision to conduct a Preliminary Interview at the outset of the first reference year. Thus the first panel will be selected in January 1993 and some information on the sample will be collected in that month. It is planned that the sample for the second panel of SLID will be selected in January 1996, with further panels being selected every three years, in January 1999, January 2002, and so on.

The sample for the first panel of SLID will consist of two rotation groups selected from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), the approximately 20,000 households which rotate out of the LFS in January and February 1993. Although this raises concerns about the eventual impact of respondent burden, it becomes possible to piggy-back the first interview (i.e., the Preliminary Interview) onto the LFS itself, as a survey supplement. Substantial cost savings result.

There are several important points to be made with respect to the Preliminary Interview:

! The Preliminary Interview on the first panel will be conducted, as an LFS supplement, using a standard paper questionnaire. It is expected that this will be the only occasion on which SLID will collect data in this way; all further data collection will use computer-assisted interviewing (CAI).

! A Preliminary Interview is conducted for all SLID respondents aged 15 and over when they enter the sample. Therefore, this includes persons who

move in with SLID respondents (called "cohabitants") and persons who turn 15 after the panel is selected. (See section 3 below for more detail).

! As with any LFS supplement, the information collected in the regular LFS is also available, so the SLID content is greater that what is indicated by the supplementary questions. There are several items that were not needed on the Preliminary Interview questionnaire because they were already covered on the LFS questionnaire. The CAI version of the Preliminary Interview has been modified to incorporate these items.

2. CONTENT

The Preliminary Interview is divided into five parts:

! current or recent work activity (i.e., for the previous calendar year);
! work experience;
! family and personal history;
! educational attainment;
! contact information for the next interview.

The description that follows covers both the Preliminary Interview variables and those to be extracted from the LFS dataset. Copies of the questionnaires used for the Preliminary Interview and for the LFS are included in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively. Question numbers are given below so that content can be related to the question wording. (The abbreviations PRE and LFS will be used to distinguish question numbers on the two questionnaires.)

2.1 Current or Recent Work Activity

The LFS collects the information listed below for one job. SLID will collect comparable information for a second job held at the time of interview.

- industry (LFS 72,74 and PRE 24,26);
- occupation and main duties (LFS 75A,75B and PRE 27,28);
- class of worker (LFS 76 and PRE 29);
- usual hours (if paid worker, weeks per month and paid hours per week; otherwise usual hours worked per week from LFS) (PRE 12-15 and PRE 30-33 (for 2nd job if applicable) and LFS 13);
- first date ever worked for this employer (PRE 21 and PRE 25);
- duration of latest continuous spell with this employer (LFS job tenure) (To be derived from previous question);
- (if paid worker) wage or salary before deductions (PRE 16 and PRE 34).

For persons not working in January 1993, the following LFS information will be used for SLID:

- duration of joblessness (LFS 51);
- reason for job separation (LFS 54);
- duration of job search (if the person is seeking work) (LFS 58).

Student status (full-time student/part-time student/non student) will also be carried over from LFS to SLID (LFS 81).

2.2 Work Experience

- number of years ago person first worked full-time (not counting summer jobs while still in school) (PRE 39);

- since then, number of years with at least 6 months of work, by full-time/part-time/some of each (PRE 42, 44);
- number of years in which no work was done (PRE 40).

2.3 Demographic and Personal History

- date of birth (LFS Form 03) -- see note 1 at end of section;
- sex (LFS Form 03);
- family relationships (LFS Form 03) -- see note 2 at end of section;
- marital status (married, common-law, separated, divorced, widowed, single) (PRE 45);
- date of current or most recent marriage (if married, separated, divorced) (PRE 47);
- date of first marriage (all except single) (PRE 49, 54, 55);
- date of separation (if separated or divorced) (PRE 46);
- date started living together (if common-law) (PRE 50);
- date widowed (if widowed) (PRE 52);
- number of children born (if female 18 or over) (PRE 57, 58);
  - year of birth of oldest child (PRE 59);
- number of other children adopted or raised (PRE 60, 61);
- mother tongue (PRE 62);
- country of birth (PRE 63);
- year of immigration (PRE 64);
- Registered Indian (yes/no) (PRE 65);
- ethnic identity (for identification of visible minorities) (PRE 66).
- member of visible minority group (yes/no -- derived from response to PRE 66);
- highest level of education of mother (PRE 84);
- highest level of education of father (PRE 85).

Note:

1. The LFS records only the age of each respondent. A question on Date of Birth will be added to the LFS for those households receiving the SLID Preliminary Interview.

2. Information on family composition for the LFS uses an economic family concept. This groups all people related by blood, marriage or adoption living in the same household into a family. Relationships within the family are described in relation to one reference person. In SLID, all inter-relationships within the household will be described and updated at each interview, starting with the first Labour Interview.

2.4 Educational Attainment

- years of elementary and secondary completed (PRE 67);
- province/territory where most elementary/secondary schooling was received (PRE 68);
- high school completed (PRE 70);
- ever enrolled in post-secondary non-university institution (PRE 71);

  if yes:
  - most recent diploma received (PRE 72, 73);
  - program length (full-time equivalent) (PRE 74, 75);
  - year diploma received (PRE 76);
  - field of study (PRE 77);
  - total years of post-secondary non-university (PRE 78);
- ever enrolled in university (PRE 79);

  if yes:
  - total years of university (PRE 80);
  - degrees, certificates and diplomas received (PRE 81);
  - year highest degree, certificate or diploma received (PRE 82);

- major field of study of highest degree, certificate or diploma (PRE 83).

2.5 Contact

Since SLID respondents remain in-sample, even if they move, it is necessary to trace respondents who move. Therefore, information is collected to help trace individuals, when necessary:

- Name and address of a friend or relative who could help reach the respondent (PRE 86);
- Telephone number at work (PRE 87).

3. IN-SCOPE POPULATION FOR THE PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW

All persons aged 15 and over in households selected for SLID will receive the Preliminary Interview. Persons who are in selected households when a new panel is introduced become "longitudinal" respondents. Every longitudinal respondent will remain in-sample until the panel is replaced, even if he/she moves. In subsequent waves, all persons living with a longitudinal respondent (i.e., cohabitants) will also be interviewed for SLID. Cohabitants will receive a Preliminary Interview the first time that they are interviewed for SLID.

- Persons aged 14 and under as of January 1 of year of interview

Basic demographics will be collected for these persons: date of birth, sex, and relationship to other household members, and grade in school. Some of these persons will turn 15 while the panel is still in-sample. When this happens, the Preliminary Interview will be administered.

! Persons aged 15 to 69 as of January 1 of year of interview

These persons will receive all five parts of the Preliminary Interview described in section 2.

! Persons aged 70 and over as of January 1 of year of interview

These persons will receive three of the five parts: family and personal history; educational attainment; and contact.